

From: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
To: Edward Grace
Cc: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: Meeting with House Committee on Appropriations Members
Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 3:42:27 PM

Ed,

Thanks, I will pass that along.

On Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 3:33 PM Grace, Edward <edward_grace@fws.gov> wrote:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

I would change to 10 FTEs

On Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 3:31 PM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@fws.gov> wrote:

Here's a table that Division of Budget is proposing to send to the Department for this afternoons meeting. Do you approve?

Total Salary and Benefits	FTEs	Average Salary and Benefits	FTEs saved	Dollars Saved
47,368,000	167	283,641	9	2,552,766

On Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 2:22 PM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

We just got out of the meeting and here is the response: OLE saved 2.5M by not filling positions that primarily worked MBTA investigations in order to hire five attaches. And yes, savings resulting from the M-Opinion decision is greater than the attache program costs.

Thanks.

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On Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 1:54 PM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@fws.gov> wrote:

Sorry to keep bothering you about this. Do you have a status? The Department is awaiting a response.

And are you able to answer the following question, "Are the savings resulting from the M-Opinion decision greater than the Attache program costs?"

Again, sorry to bother you but now we are getting pressured to provide a response ASAP.

On Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 12:06 PM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@fws.gov> wrote:

Great, thank you so much!

If you can't get the actual amount of savings, an estimate of how many man hours or FTEs OLE is

saving would be good enough.

On Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 12:03 PM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)>@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

It's being worked on as speak, via the regions. We have a 1:00 pm meeting to discuss - will get back to you after that.

Thanks.

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On Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 11:56 AM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)>@fws.gov> wrote:
Sorry to bother you about this (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) is wanting to know if you can provide and estimate on this within a few hours?

On Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 8:23 AM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)>@fws.gov> wrote:
Sounds good, thanks!

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 4:38 PM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)>@fws.gov> wrote:
I just talked to SAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) on this and he said we can discuss tomorrow. So, I'll let you know what we come up with.

Thanks.

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On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 4:25 PM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)>@fws.gov> wrote:
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was hoping to have prior to the pre-briefing meeting that will be on Wednesday, 10/17 (Meeting hasn't officially been scheduled yet). At the latest, can this information be provided at the Wednesday, 10/17 meeting?

Thanks

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 4:21 PM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)>@fws.gov> wrote:

Okay, I see where this is going. Would it be possible to wait on this when they meet w/whomever to discuss? In the meantime, I'll run this by SAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Thanks.

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On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 4:02 PM (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)>@fws.gov>

wrote:

By excusing violators from "incidental take and killing", LE may be saving money by not incurring costs for the enforcement that would be needed. Prior to the M Opinion, "incidental take and killing" was not excused.

This topic came up in the OMB briefing, that LE can afford to expand the Attache program due to the M opinion requiring less domestic investigation work.

Ed and/or (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) may be able to explain in more detail.

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 3:46 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) In reading this, it doesn't sound like there is costs involved but the SOL's opinion/interpretation of the MBTA law. Am I missing the point here?

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 3:06 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @fws.gov> wrote:

Good question.

The first two paragraphs of the attached Memo is a good summary of what is referred to as the "M Opinion".

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 2:52 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @fws.gov> wrote:

Don't want to sound stupid, but what is the M option?

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(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 2:46 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @fws.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Can you provide a figure for how much LE is saving because of the M opinion?

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 10:45 AM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 10:32 AM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

@fws.gov> wrote:

Yes, the additional attachés were discussed but contingent upon available funding as well as host government receptivity and regional trafficking activity. (This is found on slide 4 of the presentation)

And the ports were discussed on slide 8, you can see details in the notes.

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 10:14 AM

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

@fws.gov> wrote:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Just off hand (I haven't looked at (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) OMB presentation), but were these two items address in the OMB presentation?

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On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 9:50 AM

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

@fws.gov> wrote:

Good morning (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Last week, at the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in London, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced the decision to place five additional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement attachés at embassies across the globe. The new attachés will be deployed to Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, and South America.

This has raised some questions from House Committee members and they would like to have a meeting sometime this week to discuss.

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is currently seeking

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

availability for this week. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) would like to do a pre-brief meeting here at Skyline and then a briefing with the House,

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

on the Hill. Can you tell me some days/times that work for you for both?

Below is a heads up for what the discussion will entail:

1.

(b)(7)(E)

Best,

Jocelyn Buck Hunn

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Appropriations Democrats

1016 Longworth
202-225-3481

2.

This announcement was a surprise because it is inconsistent with the budget request. I have to ask that we meet to discuss in detail.

D. (Darren Benjamin)

U.S. Government Bolsters Overseas Law Enforcement Capacity to Combat Illegal Trade in Wildlife

October 11, 2018

The illegal trade in wildlife risks instability in range nations; fuels an organized, international network of criminals who also deal in arms, people and drug trafficking; and threatens the very future of treasured animals such as lions, elephants and rhinos. The Department of the Interior (DOI) and its U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are global leaders in the effort to stop wildlife trafficking and its devastating consequences.

To further boost its effectiveness, the Service is adding five attachés to its ranks of experienced criminal investigators already working with nations throughout the globe to combat wildlife trafficking. The new attachés will be deployed to U.S. embassies in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa and South America.

Service wildlife law enforcement attachés are experienced criminal investigators who specialize in wildlife and natural resource investigations. They support wildlife investigations within a host country and region by providing training and capacity building, and they advise on leveraging U.S. assets in the host region to combat wildlife trafficking. Currently there are seven Service attachés at American embassies in Bangkok, Thailand; Beijing, China; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Gaborone, Botswana; Libreville, Gabon; Lima, Peru; and Mexico City, Mexico.

“To detect and deter wildlife trafficking, the U.S. government must work with partners beyond our borders,” said Todd Willens, DOI assistant deputy secretary. “These highly trained and experienced criminal investigators are the United States’ front line, working with

other countries to fight wildlife trafficking in source, transit and destination regions of the world.”

Investigative work involving international species and other efforts focused on protecting global species has accounted for a significant portion of the Service’s Office of Law Enforcement’s work since the 1980s. More than half of wildlife crime investigations undertaken by Service officers each year now involve global species.

Attachés have provided extensive support to local authorities engaged in wildlife trafficking investigations and vital access to Service resources such as the National Fish and Wildlife Forensic Laboratory and the Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Support Unit. Several transnational organized crime investigations involving the trafficking of elephant ivory, rhino horn and reptiles between Africa and Asia have been initiated as a direct result of attaché intervention, and attachés have assisted extensively in fostering intelligence sharing and investigative support between affected nations.

At each post, Service attachés are vital members of “country teams” and participate with partners in broader enforcement working groups. They function on a regional basis to create, maintain and use government-to-government relationships to combat wildlife crime and build wildlife crime enforcement capacity. Attachés work largely in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and high-level representatives from foreign governments.

DOI and the Service’s work to combat the illegal trade in wildlife supports President Trump’s Executive Order 13773: “Enforce Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking,” in which wildlife trafficking is identified as a focal area.

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